IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A computer-based method for restricting access to network accessible digital information by network users of at least one subscriber network, said method comprising the steps of:

(a)   monitoring at a subscriber network requests by the network users for digital information;

(b)   determining whether a location indicator associated with a request is included in a database of restricted location indicators maintained at the subscriber network and denying the request where the location indicator is in the database;

(c)   retrieving at the subscriber network digital information stored at a location corresponding to the location indicator and initially analysing content of information at said location for a predetermined maximum time in the event that the location indicator is not in the database and denying or fulfilling the request based on the initial analysis, wherein searching of the database and the initial content analysis occur at a network bridge installed at the subscriber network;

(d)   periodically forwarding location indicators associated with requests and not in the database from the subscriber network to a remote network node;

(e)   retrieving at the remote network node information stored at a location corresponding to the forwarded location indicator and further analysing a content type of the retrieved information; and

(f)   periodically dispatching to the subscriber networks from the remote node location indicators found by said further analysis to have restricted type content stored therein, for inclusion in the database of restricted location indicators maintained at the subscriber network.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the digital information includes content accessible via the Internet.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the subscriber networks are local area networks wherein client computers communicate via the Ethernet access protocol.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 3 wherein the network bridge is an Ethernet bridge.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the location indicator is a Uniform Resource Locator.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 4 wherein the location indicator is extracted from an Ethernet frame originating from a client computer of a network user.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the database is stored in encrypted form and is searched for an encrypted location indicator.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 including the step of determining whether the location indicator is in an exception list before determining whether it is in the database and fulfilling the request in the event that the location indicator is in the exception list.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the request is fulfilled in the event that the location indicator is in the database but is a permitted category of restricted content.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the location indicators are forwarded from the subscriber network to the remote network node on at least an hourly basis and the location indicators are forwarded from the remote network node to the subscriber network on at least an hourly basis.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A system for restricting access to network accessible digital information by network users of at least one subscriber network, said system comprising:

(a)   a database of restricted location indicators stored at a subscriber network;

(b)   monitoring means at the subscriber network for monitoring requests by the network users of the subscriber network for digital information;

(c)   said monitoring means also determining whether a location indicator associated with each request is in the database, wherein the monitoring means comprises a network bridge installed at the subscriber network;

(d)   analysis means at the subscriber network for initially analysing content of information stored at a location corresponding to a location indicator not in the database and for denying or fulfilling the request based on the initial analysis;

(e)   forwarding means at the subscriber network for periodically forwarding location indicators associated with requests and not in the database to a remote network node;

(f)   retrieval and analysis means for retrieving by the remote network node

information stored at a location corresponding to the location indicator forwarded by the

subscriber network and for further analysing a content type of the retrieved information; and

(g)   dispatching means at the remote network node for periodically dispatching

from the remote node location indicators found by said further analysis to have restricted type

content stored therein for inclusion in the database of restricted location indicators maintained

at the subscriber network.

Claim 12 (Original): The system of claim 11 wherein the digital information includes

content accessible via the Internet.

Claim 13 (Original): The system of claim 11 wherein the subscriber networks are

local area networks communicating via the Ethernet protocol.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 13 wherein the network bridge

is an Ethernet bridge.

Claim 15 (Original): The system of claim 11 wherein the location indicator is a

Uniform Resource Locator.

Claim 16 (Original): The system of claim 14 wherein the location indicator is

extracted from an Ethernet Frame originating from a client computer of a network user.

Claim 17 (Original): The system of claim 11 wherein the database is stored in

encrypted form and is searched by the monitoring means for an encrypted location indicator.

Claim 18 (Original): The system of claim 11 wherein the monitoring means determine whether the location indicator is in the exception list before determining whether it is in the database and fulfils the request in the event that the location indicator is in the exception list.

Claim 19 (Original): The system of claim 11 wherein the system fulfils requests in the event that the location indicator associated with the request is in the database, but is a permitted category of restricted content.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 11 wherein the forwarding means and the dispatching means deliver location indicators on an hourly basis.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~A computer software program, stored in a computer readable medium, comprising instructions configured to cause a~~ A computer readable storage medium encode with instructions which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to execute a method for restricting access to network accessible digital information by the network users of a subscriber network, said method comprising:

(a) monitoring requests by the network users for digital information, wherein the subscriber network includes respective client computers for said network users;

(b) determining whether a location indicator associated with a request is included in a database of restricted location indicators stored at the subscriber network, wherein the location indicator is extracted from a data frame originating from the network user request;

(c) analysing a content type of information stored at a location corresponding to a location indicator not in the database for a predetermined time, and denying or fulfilling the

request based on the analysis, wherein location indicators are extracted and content analysed

by a network bridge installed at the subscriber network;

(d)   periodically forwarding location indicators associated with requests and not in

the database to a remote network node;

(e)   allowing the remote network node to retrieve the digital information stored at

a location corresponding to the forwarded location indicator for further analysis of a content

type of the retrieved information; and

(f)   computer readable program code means for periodically receiving from the

remote network node location indicators found by said further analysis to have restricted type

content stored therein, and including said received location indicators in the database.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The ~~method~~ computer readable storage medium of

claim 21 wherein the digital information is content accessible via the Internet.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The ~~method~~ computer readable storage medium of

claim 22 wherein the subscriber network is a local area network wherein the client computers

communicate via the Ethernet protocol.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The ~~method~~ computer readable storage medium of

claim 22 wherein the location indicator is a Uniform Resource Locator.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The ~~method~~ computer readable storage medium of

claim 23 wherein the data frame is an Ethernet frame originating from the client computer of

a requesting network user.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The ~~method~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises encrypting the location indicator before including in the database or determining whether the encrypted location indicator is in the database.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The ~~method~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises determining whether the location indicator is in an exception list before determining whether it is in the database and for fulfilling the request in the event that the location indicator is in the exception list.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The ~~method~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises fulfilling a request in the event that the location indicator is in the database but is a permitted category of restricted content.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The ~~method~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the location indicators are forward to, and received from, the remote node on at least an hourly basis.

Claim 30 (New). The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(g) accessing the network bridge and customizing a level of filtering performed at the network bridge based on policies adopted at the subscriber network.

Claim 31 (New). The method of claim 1, prior to steps (b) through (f), further comprising:

comparing the location indicator to an exception list that includes a list of digital information allowed to be accessed by the network users of the at least one subscriber network; and

bypassing a filtering process of steps (b) through (f) if the location indicator is included in the exception list and proceeding to steps (b) through (f) if the location indicator is not included in the exception list.